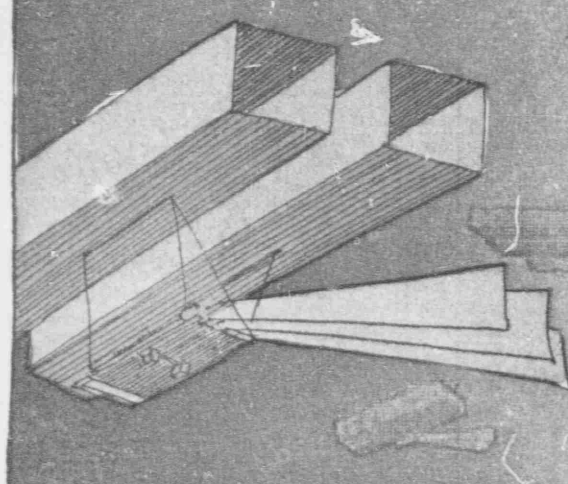


# The MARVELOUS WORLD of 2407 - & PROPHECY



WHEN, twenty years ago, Edward Bellamy wrote "Looking Backward," most, if not all, his ideas were regarded as the vagaries of a dreamer's mind.

Today, much that Bellamy predicted is no longer scouted as impossible. His theories of a wholly paternal government may never prevail, but the human race is undoubtedly progressing rapidly to what might be termed a socialism—in its broadest sense—of utilitarianism.

It has been a short step, comparatively, from the tallow candle to the electric light; from the stage coach to the swiftly speeding steam and electric trains.

Within a few years the world has seen the navigation of the air made nearly practicable, just as boats have been constructed to manoeuvre beneath the waves. Wireless telegraphy was a startling forward leap of progress; Luther Burbank has amazed the world with the results of his studies of plant culture.

What then of the future? If such wonderful strides have been made within the memory of living men, what may coming generations expect?

IT IS suggested that men, 500 years hence, will be of marvelous mental development. Little physical exercise will be undertaken, as locomotion will be principally in airships. Moving pavements traversing cities in all directions will transport those who at rare intervals will have occasion to move about upon the surface. A journey around the world will be a mere matter of a day's flight through the air.

Persons in those days, it is thought, will wear metal bands about their heads as a mechanical guard to the throbbing, restless machinery of the brain.

Emancipated from the thrall of gluttony, the future man will not care for elaborate banquets or spreads of solid food. His nourishment will consist of concentrated extracts of the best foods, prepared under the illuminating light of advanced chemistry, and each meal confined, no doubt, within the limits of a pill.

Food elements to prepare him for certain lines of work will be at his command.

A proper chemical combination of food elements will eliminate dyspepsia and all other ills.

The man of the distant future will probably dress simply—many forecasters believe he will revert to something like the raiment of the ancient Greeks and Romans.

But what as to man's habitation in 2407? At the present rapid increase of urban communities it seems probable that a vast majority of the world's population will be living in cities by that time.

## MAMMOTH CITIES PREDICTED

H. G. Wells, the English writer, who has indulged in not a little fantastic speculation as to the future, based upon a careful study of existing and unfolding conditions, believes that as early as the year 2000 New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, in the New World, will have 40,000,000 inhabitants each, while London, Berlin and St. Petersburg, in the Old World, will go well over 20,000,000. Four hundred years later, of course, the population of these cities will be vastly increased even over those figures.

How will all these people be housed? Of course, the cities will spread extensively in area, but it is safe to assume that buildings will grow much taller. In fact, a building of from 125 to 150 stories high will, it is believed by those who contemplate the future, be common in those wonderful times.

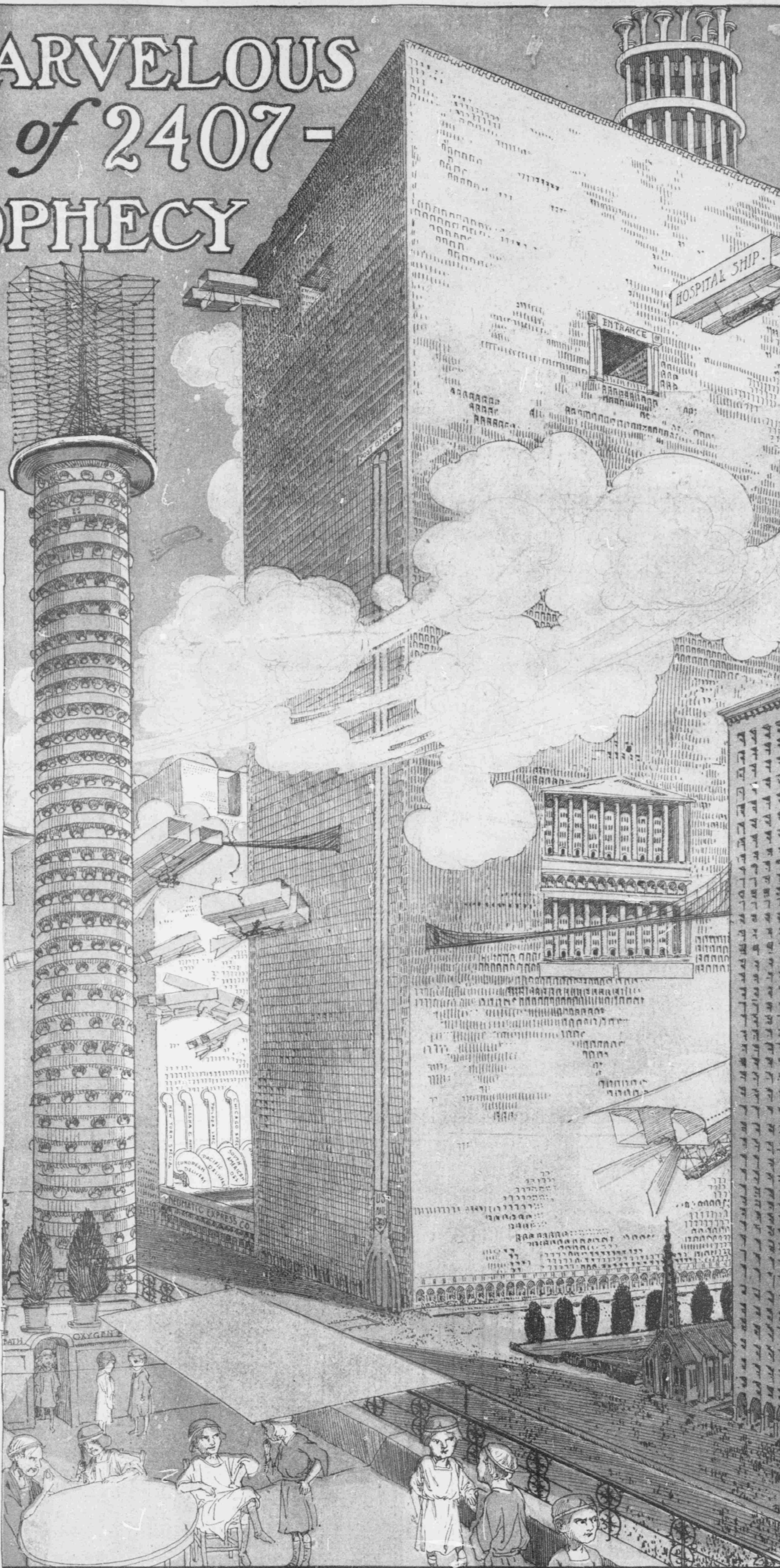
In fact, nearly as many people as now make up the population of Toledo, Ohio, or Denver, Col., may inhabit one of the enormous city buildings of that day.

Naturally, one supposes that the present-day system of elevators for tall office buildings would fall short of meeting the requirements for a building of 125 or 150 stories. Quite true. But how about a vastly improved system of pneumatic tubes, and practicable flying machines?

Professor Bell, inventor of the telephone, is now working upon a plan to control and move airships by means of electric energy sent upward from the earth just as messages are dispatched from one wireless telegraph station to another.

Not only is it easy to suppose that access to the loftier floors of the skyscrapers of the future—a skyscraper in fact as well as in name—will be by navigable airships, but the travel between various elevated communities will be by the same method.

Only a short time ago it was announced that it had been determined that building operations



in the future would deal largely in glass; that glass houses would become common; that is, houses in which glass in place of clay bricks would be used. This would mean light to every part of a big structure.

Electricity will become the good angel of the household.

It will light and heat the house, make ice for the refrigerator and do much of the heavy work of the home.

But there are those who believe that the electrical era—at least the era of electricity that is generated by steam power—is also doomed to pass; that there are elements contained in the air we breathe that has sufficient potency to meet all the wants of man.

So, too, going above every building of the far distant future may be chimneys that will suck down the air of heaven, extract all its potential elements, cause them to turn wheels, light, heat and ventilate, and, through another set of chimneys, puff out the exhaust.

The enormously tall and large building of the far future will probably have wide passageways, extending at right angles across its various floors, the dreamers of science say. Mr. B., living on the 115th floor, may arrive in his airship at that floor just as he now draws up before his door in his automobile.

Hospital ambulance airships, the delivery airships of grocery and drygoods stores and other vehicles of the air might do likewise if such things shall exist.

As food will probably be mostly in pill form, grocery wagons may not be known. At any rate, a system of pneumatic tubes will probably do all this work, as well as collect and distribute mail and express matter.

The man who wishes to send a letter to China will probably step outside his door and drop the missive in a slot marked "China," with full knowledge that it will reach its destination on the other side of the world within a few minutes, or an hour, at most.

But, of course, the man of that distant future will desire to be apprised of the news of the world, as at present. There will be newspapers, naturally, but not, say the scientists, the paper and ink newspapers of today.

## WORLD'S NEWS BY "WIRELESS"

Wireless telegraphy will have been reduced to a perfectly applicable science, covering the entire earth. The newspaper building of 2407 may be a tower of 100 or more stories in height, topped by an elaborate arrangement for receiving news through the air.

There will be hundreds of huge megaphones projecting from the sides of the tower, and these will shout out the news as soon as received, each megaphone having its own mission. Persons anywhere within a radius of a large number of miles will be able to hear. For others, private telephone connections will bring the news to homes and counting rooms.

A noted concert, lecture or theatrical performance need not be attended to be enjoyed to the utmost. The man in his library, the family in the living-room, the party in the cafe may hear every word, and at the same time witness every move of the performers as plainly as one does now gazing over the footlights.

Long before 2407, a French scientist believes, the telephone will be supplemented with an instrument which will permit us not only to see the persons to whom we are speaking, but to shake hands with them and actually to experience their touch.

Already pictures are sent by telegraph, although the method has not reached a satisfactory working stage, and an apparatus is nearing success, it is said, which enables persons telephoning to see each other. But to shake hands by wire seems more of a fantastic dream.

No, asserts the man who conceived the idea. An artificial hand at the instrument may be charged with the personality and temperament of the person at the phone so that the characteristic handclasp may be recognized across the continent.

As early as 2000, another scientist contends, agricultural enterprises, especially market gardening, will be conducted largely under glass. There will be enormous forcing houses in which crops will be grown to a great height and multiplied fruitfulness.

So the New Year's Day of 2407 may witness a world throughout which marvelous intelligence is equally distributed; lands which no railroad trains cross, where no factory chimneys mar; seas from which all shipping has long since disappeared.

There will be no more of commerce, the wise forecasters say, because the day of individual fortune-making and labor for individual gain will have passed.

Of course, there will be no wars; not only would war be too deadly because of the wonderful agencies within man's grasp, but the intelligence of the era will not brook settlement of controversies by brute force.